

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

XMB-02 OPIC-03 /108 W

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R 111751Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4927

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MTN GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1914

E.O.11YTWC GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, ELAB SP

SUBJECT: COMMERCE MINISTER STRESSES POLITICAL
IMPACT IN SPAIN OF SHOE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

REF: MADRID 1458

1. COMMERCE MINISTER CALVO SOTELO, DURING MY COURTESY
CALL ON HIM TODAY, STRESSED ADVERSE IMPACT U.S. SHOE
IMPORT RESTRICTIONS WOULD HAVE ON SPANISH ECONOMY ON EMPLOYMENT
AND LABOR UNREST, AND CONSEQUENTLY ON ORDERLY EVOLUTION TO A
MORE DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY. HE SAID, THAT DIFFICULT PROCESS OF
POLITICAL EVOLUTION FOLLOWING 40 YEARS OF AUTHORITARIANISM
COINCIDES WITH WORST ECONOMIC RECESSION IN POST WAR YEARS.
UNEMPLOYMENT AND LABOR UNREST ARE MOST SERIOUS THREATS TO
PEACEFUL EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS, AND WITH DOUBLE DIGIT INFLATION
SPAIN IS UNABLE TO SATISFY WORKERS DEMANDS WITH LARGE WAGE
SETTLEMENTS AS DID FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN MAY 1968
COMMUNISTS AND RADICALS OF BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT WILL BE
BENEFICIARIES IF SITUATION WORSENS. GOS IS CONCERNED, HE SAID
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THAT U.S. RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF SPANISH SHOES WILL CAUSE

GREATER UNEMPLOYMENT IN SHOE MANUFACTURING CENTERS OF ALICANTE AND VALENCIA, AREAS WHICH HAVE THUS FAR BEEN RELATIVELY FREE OF LABOT UNREST. SPAIN NEEDS CONCRETE HELP FROM FRIENDS, HE ADDED, AND THE U.S. COULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL AT THIS TIME BY REFRAINING FROM IMPOSING RESTRICTIONS ON SPAIN'S LARGEST EXPORT TO THE U.S.

2. I ASSURED CALVO SOTELO THAT U.S. FULLY SUPPORTS SPAIN'S EFFORST TO DEVELOP DEMOCRATIC INSITUATION S BY ORDERLY PROCESS. SECRETARY KISSINGER. I NOTED, HAS MADE THIS CLEAR IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS. I ADDED THAT SPANISH POSITION ON SHOE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS WAS STATED CLEARLY IN MEMORANDUM FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA PRESENTED DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MADRID AND IN LATER SPANISH EMBASSY NOTE TO STATE DEPARTMENT. I CAUTIONED THAT DIFFICULT STATE OF U.S. DOMESTIC SHOE INDUSTRY MUST BE GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION, BUT I ASSURED COMMERCE MINISTER I WOULD MAKE KNOWN HIS CONCERN OVER POLITICAL IMPACT ON SPAIN OF U.S. DECISION ON SHOE IMPORTS SINCE IT SHOULD ALSO BE A FACTOR IN OUR DELIVERATIONS. STABLER

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